



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2005

Contact: Stephanie Lundberg
Phone: 202-225-5506

Kind Initiatives Prevalent in President's Agriculture Budget Proposal

Commodity Caps, Conservation Payments, EMP, & MILC Silver-Lining in 2006 Budget

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) expressed his support today for several agriculture initiatives in the Bush Administration's 2006 budget that he has fought for throughout his career in Congress, including: full funding for the Environmental Management Program (EMP), extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC), subsidy payment cap reform, and increased support for agriculture conservation programs.

"While I believe that the Bush Administration's overall 2006 budget is generally inadequate and fiscally misguided, the President's support of several important agriculture initiatives marks a silver-lining," stated Kind. "I am pleased that in this tight budget process the President recognized the merit of these programs and their value to the economic future of farming in America, especially the MILC program, which the President promised to support during his reelection campaign."

During reauthorization of the 2002 Farm Bill, Rep. Kind led a bipartisan effort to restructure agriculture policy through greater emphasis on voluntary conservation payments rather than commodity payouts, which disproportionately benefit big agribusiness. This new policy would not only provide a more equitable distribution of federal assistance payments to our nation's struggling farmers, but would reconcile U.S. agriculture policy with World Trade Organization trade policy, thereby strengthening multilateral trade relations.

2006 agriculture budget priorities that Rep. Kind strongly supports include:

1. Environmental Management Program (EMP) – full funding -- \$33.52 million;
2. Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) - two year extension;
3. Tightening of the commodity payment cap limitation and eliminate existing loopholes (The administration's proposal would cap commodity payments at \$250,000 -- down roughly 30 percent from the current cap of \$360,000);
4. Increased support for voluntary conservation programs.